

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /152 W

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P R 210850Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1784

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB

USAGO MACHINATO

313TH AD KADENA

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

OAFO MACHINATO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USPAV KADENA AB

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SCUL, JA

SUBJECT: OPENING OF INTERNATIONAL OCEAN EXPOSITION

DEPT PASS USIA

SUMMARY: THE EXPO SUCCESSFULLY OPENED JULY 19 WITH ATTENDANCE BY THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS AND MOST OF THE CABINET. NO FURTHER

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TERRORIST INCIDENTS FOLLOWED THE EARLIER FIRE BOMBING, NOR DID ANY INCIDENTS OCCUR INVOLVING OUR MILITARY. THE AMERICAN PAVILION APPEARS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AT THE EXPO. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN EXPOSITION-OKINAWA STARTED IN GOOD STYLE

SAT, JULY 19 UNDER CLEAR, HOT WEATHER. THE RUMORED TYPHOON NEVER MATERIALIZED, AND RADICAL VIOLENCE WAS DETERRED BY A MASSIVE POLICE PRESENCE. THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY WAS APPROPRIATELY COLORFUL, WITH THE SPEECHES, FLAG-RAISING, AND WATERSKIING TAKING PLACE TO BACKGROUND MUSIC PROVIDED BY THE TOKYO FIREMEN'S BAND, NOT THE SELF DEFENSE FORCE BAND IN CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL SENSITIVITIES.

THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS, THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS ACCOMPANYING ENTOURAGE OF ELEVEN CABINET MINISTERS (INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE DEFENSE MINISTER, WHOSE VISIT WENT SMOOTHLY), FINISHED THEIR SCHEDULE IN THE AFTERNOON AND FLEW BACK TO TOKYO UNSCATCHED.

2. THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS, HOWEVER, HAD HAD A CLOSE CALL IN THE FIRE BOMBING ATTACK AT THE HIMEYURI TOWER JULY 17. GOVERNOR YARA AND EVERYONE ELSE EXPRESSED GREAT DISMAY OVER THE INCIDENT.

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BOTH THE MAJOR LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS AND THE LOCAL PRESS WERE SOBERED ENOUGH BY THE ACT OF VIOLENCE TO DOWNPLAY THEREAFTER OPPOSITION TO THE IMPERIAL VISIT. WHEN THE CROWN PRINCE VISITS THE EXPO AGAIN (OR POSSIBLY THE EMPEROR HIMSELF COMES) OPPOSITION LOCALLY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE MORE MUTED AFTER THIS EXPERIENCE.

3. THE EXPO OPENED FOR THE PUBLIC ON SUNDAY, JULY 20 TO A TOTAL OF 34,000 VISITORS, MOST OF THEM MAINLANDERS DOWN ON GROUP TOURS. THE NUMBER WAS THINNER THAN EXPECTED, BUT PROBABLY BECAUSE THE SAVVY OKINAWANS ARE DEFERRING THEIR VISITS UNTIL COOLER WEATHER. THE SITE ITSELF WAS READY, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SNAFUS (I.E., WATER FOUNTAINS WERE HARD TO FIND), AND THE OPENING WAS MORE CONFUSED THAN NORMAL IN JAPAN. TRAFFIC TO THE SITE (SOME TWO HOURS FROM NAHA BY BUS) MOVED WELL. ON THE SITE, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE-MOVER SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY BOEING WAS EFFICIENT. LINES DEVELOPED AT THE MAJOR ATTRACTIONS, PARTICULARLY THE AQUAPOLIS, BUT OVERALL THE EXPO SEEMED WELL ABLE TO HANDLE THE VISITORS.

44. THE AMERICAN PAVILLION WAS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR WITH MANY PEOPLE WAITING TO ENTER AND APPEARING MOST INTERESTED AS THEY WENT THROUGH. COMMISSIONER GERNERAL LANE IS PLEASED

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WITH THE START THAT HAS BEEN MADE. TWO GERMAN JOURNALISTS WHO HAD TOURED THE WHOLE EXPO TOLD ME TODAY THAT THEY CONSIDERED THE AMERICAN PAVILION THE BEST THEY HAD SEEN, IN THAT IS WAS THE MOST SERIOUS IN ITS APPROACH TO THE OCEANIC THEME OF THE EXPO. THEY NOTED, IN CONTRAST, THE KEY FEATURE OF THE SOVIET PAVILION WAS A PORTRAIT OF LENIN(NOT IN A WET SUIT, HOWEVER).

5. NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING OUR MILITARY SERVICEMEN OCCURED

THAT DREW ANY ATTENTION. ALONG WITH THE FINE CONDUCT BY INDIVIDUALS, THIS WAS DUE IN LARGE PART TO THE CAREFUL PRECAUTIONS TAKEN BY OUR COMMANDERS TO FORESTALL INCIDENTS AS WELL AS GUARD AGAINST TERRORIST VIOLENCE AGAINST US. ALSO, SO FAR AT LEAST, IN ITS TREATMENT OF THE EXPO OPENING THE MAINLAND PRESS HAS NOT FOCUSED MUCH ON OUR HEAVY MILITARY PRESENCE ON THIS ISLAND. A NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS, HOWEVER, INCLUDING VARIOUS FOREIGN ONES, ARE NOW FLOATING AROUND OKINAWA LOOKING FOR STORIES, SO WE MUST EXPECT MORE PUBLICITY THAT USUAL.

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